

We claim:

1. A fiber-optic cable connection, comprising:
a first connector part including an optical fiber, said optical fiber
5 including a terminal end having a conductive coating; and
a second connector part adapted to mate with said first
connector part, said second connector part having a verification circuit that
verifies said first connector part and said second connector part have been
connected using said conductive coating.

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2. The fiber-optic cable connection of claim 1, wherein said
verification circuit includes a contact element within said second connector
part disposed at a position which coincides with a location of said conductive
coating when said first connector part is connected to said second connector
15 part.

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3. The fiber-optic cable connection of claim 2, wherein said
conductive coating is located at only a terminal end of said optical fiber.

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4. The fiber-optic cable connection of claim 2, wherein said
conductive coating extends a length of said optical fiber.

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5. The fiber-optic cable connection of claim 2, wherein said
verification circuit further includes an electronic device that indicates when
said contact element touches said conductive coating.

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6. The fiber-optic cable connection of claim 5, wherein said
electronic device is located in a housing of said second connector part.

7. The fiber-optic cable connection of claim 5, wherein said
electronic device is located in a housing to which said second connector part
is connected.

8. The fiber-optic cable connection of claim 5, wherein said electronic device includes one of a light-emitting diode and an audible alarm.

5 9. The fiber-optic cable connection of claim 5, wherein said verification circuit includes a power source for activating said electronic device, said power source being located in one of said second connector part and a device connector to said first connector part.

10 10. The fiber-optic cable connector of claim 5, wherein said conductive coating carries electrical signals from a first electronic device connected to said first connector part to a second electronic device connected to said second connector part.

15 11. The fiber-optic cable connector of claim 2, wherein said contact element is a ring electrode.

12. The fiber-optic cable connector of claim 2, wherein said contact element includes at least two electrodes.

20 13. A method for verifying an optical connection, comprising:
providing a first connector part coupled to an optical fiber, said optical fiber having a terminal end with a conductive coating;
providing a second connector part having a contact element,
said contact element disposed at a position which coincides with said
25 conductive coating of said optical fiber when said first connector part and said second connector part are mated; and
outputting a verification signal when said contact element touches said conductive coating.

30 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:
activating an electronic device based on said verification signal.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said electronic device includes one of a light-emitting diode and an audible alarm.

16. The method of claim 13, further comprising:
5 transmitting optical signals along said conductive coating between two electronic devices.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein at least one of said electronic devices is a network element.

10 18. A fiber-optic cable, comprising:
an optical fiber;
a conductive coating disposed around said optical fiber; and
a buffer disposed around said conductive coating, said buffer
15 including a jacket made from one of plastic and a polymer.

19. The fiber-optic cable of claim 18, wherein said conductive coating is located at only a terminal end of said optical fiber.

20 20. The fiber-optic cable of claim 1, wherein said conductive coating extends a length of said optical fiber.

21. A fiber-optic cable connection tester, comprising:
a connector part adapted to mate with an optical fiber that
25 includes a terminal end having a conductive coating, said connector part having a verification circuit that verifies that said connector part and said optical fiber have been connected using said conductive coating.

22. The fiber-optic cable connection tester of claim 21, wherein said
30 verification circuit includes a contact element within said connector part disposed at a position which coincides with a location of said conductive coating when said connector part and said optical fiber have been connected.

23. The fiber-optic cable connection tester of claim 22, wherein said verification circuit includes an electronic device that indicates when said contact element touches said conductive coating.

5 24. The fiber-optic cable connection tester of claim 23, wherein said electronic device is located in a housing of said connector part.

25. The fiber-optic cable connection tester of claim 23, wherein said electronic device is located in a housing to which said connector part is
10 connected.

26. The fiber-optic cable connection tester of claim 23, wherein said electronic device includes one of a light-emitting diode and an audible alarm.

15 27. The fiber-optic cable connection tester of claim 23, wherein said verification circuit includes a power source for activating said electronic device.

20 28. A method for making an optical connection, comprising:
providing a first connector part coupled to an optical fiber, said optical fiber having a terminal end with a conductive coating;
providing a second connector part having a contact element,
said contact element disposed at a position which coincides with said conductive coating of said optical fiber when said first connector part and said
25 second connector part are mated.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein said step of providing a second connector part includes:
providing an electronic device within said second connector part
30 that indicates when said contact element touches said conductive coating.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein said electronic device is one of a light-emitting diode and an audible alarm.

31. A method for making an optical connection, comprising:
- providing a first connector part coupled to an optical fiber, said optical fiber having a terminal end with a conductive coating;
- 5 providing a second connector part having a contact element, said contact element disposed at a position which coincides with said conductive coating of said optical fiber when said first connector part and said second connector part are mated.

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